taken shelter in Tripura;

(b) whether there was any discussion between both the Governments regarding taking back of the refugees by the Bangladesh Government; and

(c) if so, what progress has been made in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) As per information received from the Government of Tripura, 48,938 Chakma tribal refugees have entered into Tripura upto 6.4.1987.

(b) and (c) The matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh at various levels from time to time. As a result thereof as agreed to by Bangladesh, the repatriation of refugees was to start from 15th January, 1987. However, the repatriation could not take place as the refugees refused to go back to Bangladesh in view of the continuing influx of refugees amongst whom some were in injured state and the conditions on the other side of the border. The Government has again taken up the matter with Bangladesh for their repatriation and for creating conditions conducive for the return of refugees.

Sealing of border with Bangladesh to check influx of refugees

470. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seal the border with Bangladesh to check influx of refugees from that country;

(b) whether Government are planning to construct roads along the border with the country to check influx of refugees;

(c) whether more BSF camps are likely to be set up along the border for this purpose; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Border Security Force guarding the Indo-Bangladesh border is on constant vigil. In order to reduce the distance between border out-posts and to increase vigilance on the border for prevention of infiltration and influx of refugees, the Government of India have sanctioned 29 additional battalions of BSF with necessary infrastructure for Indo-Bangladesh border to be raised in a period of five years.

(b) Yes, Sir. Border roads are being constructed to check infiltration.

(c) and (d) 180 additional border out-posts and 1333 additional observation post towers will be established/constructed by BSF during the five year period.

Rules Governing the Service Conditions and Seniority of the staff of D.T.D.C.

471. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no service rules in the Delhi Tourism Development Corporation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Delhi Administration Seniority Rules, 1985 are followed in Delhi Tourism Development Corporation for fixing the seniority of the staff;

(c) whether any final/tentative seniority list has ever been issued; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to finalise the final seniority lists of various cadres of employees in the Delhi Tourism Development Corporation by fixing seniority under Seniority Rules, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) Tne Service rules of the Corporation have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation and the same are to be circulated shortly.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes Sir. The final seniority list has been issued in case of information Assistants, Dy. Managers, General Correspondent Assistants. The tentative seniortiy list has been issued is case of Accounts Assistant, Bill Clerks, Helpers/Attendants as per the Seniority Rules, 1965.

(d) The final seniority list in all the cases shall be prepared by the Corporation after circulation of the Staff Service Rules among the employees of the Corporation.

Import of dry fruits

472. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present dry fruits import policy of Government is leading to the smuggling of dry fruits;

(b) what is the estimated authorised import of dry fruits and also the estimated demand;

(c) whether the low imports and high levies have attracted smugglers to smuggle dry fruits; and

(d) what measures Government contemplate to take to amend the policy of dry fruits import so as to check the smuggling of dry fruits into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (c) Dry fruits is not a mass consumer item and its import is restricted. Reports received by the Government and seizures made indicate some incidence of smuggling of dry fruits into the country.

(b) Import of dry fruits viz. Raisins, Sultanas and other dried grapes, figs, almonds, pistachio nuts, walnuts were of the order of Rs. 1257.48 lakhs, Rs. 2210.76 lakhs and Rs. 2072.96 lakhs for the year 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 respectively. Data beyond March, 1985 is not available.

Value of import licences issued for dry fruits (excluding cashewnuts and dates) during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 (upto December, 1986) is Rs. 22.00 crores, Rs. 15.11 crores and Rs. 16.20 crores respectively. No assesment of demand has been undertaken, but there have been no reports of shortages.

(d) Steps are being taken to increase the production of dry fruits like almonds, walnut and pistachio in J and K, Himachal Pradesh and hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and raisins in Maharashtra.

Garment Export Policy

473. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered it desirable to change the policy relating to the issuance of garment export licences of first come, first serve basis;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how Government propose to eliminate middleman garment exporters who are not in the line of manufacture of garments and are not the original manufacturers of garments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Export Entitlement Distribution